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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,062	03/01/2002	Kanta Yamamoto	FUJH 19.475	3222
26304	7590	04/27/2006	EXAMINER	
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP			LEVITAN, DMITRY	
575 MADISON AVENUE			ART UNIT	
NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			PAPER NUMBER	

2616

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/087,062		YAMAMOTO, KANTA	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Dmitry Levitan		2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: text on page 8 lines 13-15 is unclear as written.
3. Text on page 2 regarding decreasing the number of connection lines for 1-to-n connection between nodes is unclear, because the disclosure does not describe how to achieve this reduction.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 limitations “demultiplexing the multiplexed packet signal to each packet” are not clear, because it is not understood what is “each packet” in the context of the claim.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the self interface board" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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Claim 4 limitation “a path accommodated in the self interface board is routed to a predetermined path accommodated in the self interface board” is unclear as written.

Claim 4 limitation “a path not accommodated in the self interface board is routed to the other dedicated interface board accommodating the path concern” is unclear as written.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the working side and the protection side of the interface board" in lines 6-7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 is unclear as written, because it is not understood what path is redundant: from the dedicated board to the interface board or from the interface board to the dedicated board.

Claim 6 limitation: “the path switch function of the switch board” is unclear, because the limitation of claim 5 comprises “the dedicated interface board having the path switch function”, making claim 6 limitation “the path switch function” confusing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected (as best understood) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noser (US 5,365,518) in view of Elliot (US 6,587,470).

8. Regarding claims 1-3, Noser substantially teaches transmission equipment (cross-connect switch 12, shown on Fig. 1 and 2:45-63) comprising:

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a switch with a cross-connect portion (cross-connect matrix 14 on Fig. 1 and 2:45-50) for making a multiplexed packet signal to branch to predetermined paths (inherently part of the system, because Noser teaches the system server 10 with STM-1 output is capable of broadcasting packets as shown on Fig. 1 and 5:3-7), and

a plurality of interface units for interfacing the cross-connect portion with a multiplexed signal being transmitted on a path (input and output units 16, 18 and server 10, interfacing cross-connect matrix 14 with STM-1 signals transmitted/received to/from output/input paths, as shown on Fig. 1 and 3:1-47),

wherein at least one of the plurality of interface units is a dedicated interface having a path switch function of demultiplexing the multiplexed packet signal to each packet to route the demultiplexed packet signal to a predetermined path (server 10, shown on Fig. 1 and 2, comprising packet switch modules 32 and MUX/DEMUX modules 24 and 26 to route the demultiplexed packet signal to a predetermined path 58 3:35-47).

Noser does not teach designing the switch and the interface units as boards, inserted in slots mounted on a shelf frame and interconnected through a backboard and the packets as ATM cells or Frame relay packets.

Elliot teaches designing the switch and the interface units as boards, inserted in slots mounted on a shelf frame and interconnected through a backboard (switch/cross-connect design, shown on Fig. 4A and B, comprising boards, inserted in slots mounted on a shelf frame and connected with a backplane 7:25-65) and the packets as ATM cells or Frame relay packets (ATM and Frame relay signals 5:56-64).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add designing the switch and the interface units as boards, inserted in slots mounted on a shelf frame and interconnected through a backboard and utilizing ATM and Frame relay signals of Elliot to the system of Noser to improve the system maintainability by simplifying the failed units replacement and making system compatible with widely used ATM and Frame relay standards.

9. Regarding claims 5 and 6 (as best understood), Noser teaches the dedicated interface board having redundant path function of routing the demultiplexed signal comprising working and protection sides of the dedicated interface board and working and protection switch matrix (A and B sides on Fig. 2, wherein one is working and the other is protection 4:20-50).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dmitry Levitan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3093. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on (571) 272-7529. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DL' followed by a stylized name.

Dmitry Levitan
Examiner
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